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Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the 2007 *World Economic Outlook* painted an overall positive picture for developing countries. However, growth of the global economy might slow, negatively impacting the most vulnerable economies. Therefore, SADC would probably not benefit fully from global growth. It was necessary to do more globally to address the growing disparity between developed and developing countries, and within developing countries themselves.

2. SADC countries were making great efforts to consolidate and strengthen integration in the subregion and were ready to establish a free trade area in 2008. While free trade had the potential to contribute to the economic and social development of the subregion, the issue of market access needed to be addressed internationally in the World Trade Organization. In that connection, he expressed concern about the stalemate in the Doha Round negotiations and called on developed countries to provide needed leadership for the rapid conclusion of the Doha Round.

3. The debt relief border ran the risk of slowing progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Total debt cancellation remained crucial to freeing resources for the achievement of the Goals and SADC therefore called on all multilateral and bilateral creditors to join efforts in addressing the extreme indebtedness of some SADC countries.

4. Regrettably, most development partners had not met their obligation of contributing 0.7 per cent of their GNI to ODA. In addition, the Group of Eight Gleneagles promise of scaled-up ODA had not been kept and the recent G-8 meeting in Germany had not resulted in further commitments by countries to financing for development.

5. Efficiency of aid was also of major importance. Aid should be better aligned with national and regional development strategies and delivered in a coordinated manner with minimal transaction costs. It was essential to ensure that ODA provided to SADC countries was demand-driven.

6. SADC welcomed the forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and hoped that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would address the issue of implementation of commitments made as well as new resources for financing for development.

7. SADC countries attached great importance to the universal, neutral, voluntary and grant nature of the United Nations operational activities for development, as well as to their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries. Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system in delivering results at country level would contribute significantly to the achievement of internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Climate change could reverse development gains, especially in developing countries, since their capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change was limited or non-existent. SADC was working to mitigate the destructive effects of climate change, but recognized the urgent need to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Developed countries, whose emissions had contributed most to climate change, should take necessary action within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and negotiations should begin soon on the post-2012 successor framework to the Kyoto Protocol.

9. Although poverty was retreating globally, extreme poverty had grown in a considerable number of countries, including in the SADC subregion. The Committee should therefore continue to examine the issue of poverty eradication and establish a framework to ensure the regular assessment of progress. The community planned to convene an international conference on poverty and development, to be held in Mauritius in April 2008, and called on the international community to support that initiative.

10. Science and technology had a crucial role to play in achieving the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Globalization had tended to widen the technology gap between the developed and developing countries, and support was currently needed in the form of technology transfer. The rules that governed the acquisition of scientific

knowledge and technology should be made flexible for appropriate application. Technology transfer should be linked to capacity-building aimed at boosting the productive sectors of the economy that contributed to sustainable development.

11. SADC hoped that the current year's deliberations on sustainable development would focus on the important issues contained in the agenda of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including agriculture, which was especially critical in Africa. It was imperative to lay a sound base for the successful conclusion of that session, with the adoption of a holistic approach that took into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

12. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica) welcomed the convening of the forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which would set the stage for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha in 2008.

13. The Latin American and Caribbean region, composed primarily of middle-income developing countries, had the second-highest level of external debt. That was a reminder of the need for a comprehensive, effective, equitable, durable and development-oriented solution to the debt problems of developing countries, including middle-income developing countries. The assumption that middle-income developing countries did not require any special support from the international community was incorrect. A number of initiatives, including the high-level meetings convened in 2007 by the Governments of Spain and El Salvador, were intended to change that perception.

14. The promotion of trade and investment was of particular importance to the Government of Jamaica, as was the development dimension of the Doha Work Programme. Particular attention should be given to the differences in the levels of development among economies and the asymmetries that existed between developed and developing countries.

15. Good governance at both the national and the international levels was fundamental to achieving sustained economic growth and development. The United Nations had a critical role to play in that regard. One important mechanism was the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, including through the Annual Ministerial Reviews and the Development Cooperation Forum. Her delegation looked forward to the 2008 substantive session of the Council, which could build on the very useful discussions held during the summer of 2007. The United Nations had a critical role to play in promoting the development agenda, and Jamaica was committed to ensuring that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the discussions on system-wide coherence advanced that objective.

16. The issue of climate change also warranted special attention. As a small island developing State that continued to suffer the devastating impact of severe weather events linked to climate change, Jamaica advocated measures to support developing countries in their efforts to overcome the challenges associated with climate change. One area of particular interest was the provision of adequate resources and greater access to related technology. Her delegation expected that the momentum generated to date would result in meaningful action being taken at the Bali Climate Change Conference.

17. **Mr. Meñez** (Philippines) noted that there were similarities between financial instability and climate change. Both situations appeared to have been created primarily by developed nations and, in both cases, the poorest and most vulnerable nations would suffer the most if the situation were to deteriorate further.

18. The Philippines remained committed to pursuing all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and was generally considered to be on track with regard to the Goals. Regrettably, that did not seem to be the case for a vast number of other countries. In that context, agenda items 52 and 53 took on extra significance. Under item 52, the Philippines was particularly interested in pursuing its innovative debt-for-equity initiative and urged all Member States to support it. Similarly, under agenda item 53, the Philippines looked forward to collaborating with all like-minded countries during the forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

19. The Philippines had pursued a number of initiatives to assess the impact of climate change on the country, ensure strict compliance with emission standards and environmental regulations, make climate change a priority in policy formulation and legislation, and carry out a comprehensive programme on alternative energy sources. In addition, the Philippines

had actively contributed to regional calls for action, in which climate change was linked to the issue of energy security.

20. The Philippines planned to submit a draft resolution calling on the international community to save the mountains, and looked forward to the Committee's endorsement of the proposal.

21. Referring to General Assembly resolution 61/217 on special assistance for the Philippines, he said that, if the Secretary-General's progress report so warranted, his delegation would propose further action.

22. Finally, he informed the Committee that preparations for the second Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Manila in October 2008, were well under way.

23. **Mr. Khazaee** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that imbalances in the world economy continued to exist and that further international cooperation and a favourable global climate were necessary to boost the economy worldwide and to achieve sustained economic growth as well as sustainable development in developing countries. All States, particularly developed States, should spare no effort in seeking a successful conclusion to the ongoing international trade negotiations.

24. The current slow progress in multilateral trade negotiations and lack of appropriate multilateral agreements would not boost economic growth or contribute to eradicating world poverty. It was crucial to strengthen regional cooperation, especially among developing countries, as a means to achieve faster growth. North-South and triangular cooperation also remained crucial to improve the world economy and promote development.

25. The international financial institutions had not yet succeeded in introducing effective plans to help developing countries overcome their economic and financial problems with a view to achieving their development goals. In addition, the politicization of the institutions had been detrimental and violated their articles of agreement. He therefore firmly supported appropriate reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, including strengthening the participation and voting power of developing countries.

26. Adequate, stable financing remained a prerequisite for development in developing countries. The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development should therefore consider means to ensure the timely implementation of the commitments made at the International Conference on Financing for Development, including the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for official development assistance by the developed countries.

27. Referring to the Intergovernmental Conference on Middle-Income Countries, he noted that 40 per cent of the world population surviving on less than two dollars a day lived in middle-income countries. It was therefore imperative to address poverty eradication in such countries as part of the international community's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

28. Operational activities were crucial to the three pillars of sustainable development. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review should be based on national ownership, national development plans and the priorities of the recipients. It should help developing countries implement internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, particularly areas in which such countries were lagging. The Review should also stress the importance of the predictability, stability and increase of financial resources, access to and transfer of technology, and capacity-building.

29. Natural disasters seriously hampered the development efforts of both national Governments and the international community and it was important to increase international cooperation in that area. The international community should distinguish between weather-related disasters and those caused by geological features.

30. He noted with interest the deliberations held at the first Global Forum on Migration and Development in July 2007 and hoped that, by furthering discussion on such issues in other forums, all concerned countries would be able to maximize the advantages and minimize the disadvantages of international migration.

31. **Ms. Núñez Mordoche** (Cuba) said that, despite progress in some regions, the critical economic and social situation of the world overall had not improved. Developing countries still struggled against poverty, insufficient resources and marginalization, not to mention armed conflicts, natural disasters and disease.

32. Because of the unfavourable international environment and unjust world order, it seemed unlikely that the Millennium Development Goals would be

attained by 2015. To illustrate her point, she quoted statistics relating to, inter alia, the increasingly unequal distribution of wealth; the number of people living in extreme poverty; the number of people without access to clean water or sanitation; the under-five mortality rate from curable and preventable diseases; the number of children without access to primary education; the mortality rate from AIDS and, despite that, the percentage of AIDS-related drugs controlled by multinationals, the percentage of Africans without access to treatment and the percentage of the world's population who failed to receive regular medication; and the increasing external debt of developing countries. Furthermore, developing countries were still unable to access international markets owing to a lack of political will among developed countries, which clung to their unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, despite increasing environmental degradation. In addition, ODA was still well below the 0.7 per cent target. Paradoxically, the Millennium Development Goals could be attained with just 10 per cent of current military expenditure.

33. The application of coercive economic measures, unilateral sanctions and extraterritorial laws and regulations against developing countries posed a serious threat to freedom of trade and investment. Cuba had been a victim of such measures in the form of the 40-year-old — and ever-stricter — embargo imposed by the United States.

34. The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development would provide an opportunity for intergovernmental follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development. Her delegation would work to find concrete solutions to such important issues as sustainable development, poverty and international cooperation.

35. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system would provide an opportunity once again to establish guidelines for the work of the funds and programmes, which should concentrate on promoting development and not on other activities increasingly unrelated to development.

36. **Mr. Labbé** (Chile) said that urgent action was needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which were the main cause of climate change. The international community must work together and in conformity with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. All countries had a common but differentiated responsibility to protect the environment and the world's climate systems.

37. In view of the success of the previous month's High-level Event on Climate Change, he was hopeful that participants in the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Bali in December would be able to produce a clear road map for beyond 2012. He also hoped that participants in the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would be able to reach agreement on the key issues to be discussed.

38. At the current pace, several regions would be unable to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Africa, in particular, required international support. If donors honoured their commitments regarding ODA and developing countries implemented appropriate policies, the outlook would be considerably better. Everyone must do their part.

39. To demonstrate its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, the Committee should discuss the call for an extraordinary conference in 2008 and adopt a draft resolution calling for an international conference on South-South cooperation, as recommended by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its most recent session. The 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries urgently needed to be updated in order to reflect the increase in such cooperation. South-South cooperation could also boost efforts to attain the relevant goals and objectives by 2015.

40. The agreement reached on the United Nations Development Programme Strategic Plan 2008-2011 clearly demonstrated the commitment of all regional groups to the Millennium Development Goals. Noting the key role of science and technology in attaining those Goals, he called on the international community to redouble its efforts to narrow the digital divide. In view of the need for a strategy involving all interested sectors, his Government would be promoting cooperation, national capacity-building, and transparent and competitive markets.

41. The draft resolution on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review would provide a framework for the entire system for the next three years. It therefore needed to send a clear message that

United Nations system activities must focus on combating hunger, poverty and underdevelopment. Of equal importance was the draft resolution on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha in 2008. His Government hoped that preparations for that conference would be open and inclusive and that an invitation would be extended to all parties involved, directly or indirectly, in financing for development, including the private sector and civil society. He reiterated his delegation's support for the two facilitators of those preparations and welcomed the initiative to convene a High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development later that month.

42. **Mr. Mansour** (Tunisia) recalled that participants in the plenary general debate had stressed that development determined global progress towards greater equilibrium, stability and peace, but also noted that the United Nations still fell short when it came to implementation, which must be at the heart of the Organization's development agenda.

43. Now that the midway point between the adoption and the deadline for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals had been reached, an individual and global stocktaking exercise of achievements and constraints was needed. His delegation welcomed the proposal to hold a summit dedicated specifically to those Goals in 2008. The adoption of a second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty was also justified. Furthermore, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005), developed countries that had not already done so should establish timetables to achieve the 0.7 per cent target of GNI for ODA by no later than 2015. Poverty eradication required a global partnership based on cooperation and solidarity. Such values had inspired the decision to proclaim International Human Solidarity Day in 2005 and to establish the World Solidarity Fund in 2002.

44. Climate change affected all aspects of development and was symptomatic of the imbalances in the world economic order. Countries that sought to combat climate change and adapt to its adverse effects faced technological, financial, social and human challenges. It was very difficult, if not impossible, for developing countries to meet such challenges. Moreover, the regions least responsible for climate change were the ones most affected by its devastating consequences and, therefore, the ones with the most pressing need to adapt. Developed countries had a moral responsibility to mitigate risks and help developing countries adapt. The international community must give concrete expression to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. In that connection, Tunisia planned to organize an international conference on the impact of climate change and adaptation strategies in Africa and the Mediterranean region in November 2007.

45. Middle-income countries played an important role in stabilizing the global environment, but continued to be extremely vulnerable. Such countries still needed international support, whence the need to follow up the relevant provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

46. The digital divide continued to cause economic, social and cultural disparities. The international community should implement the outcomes of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis in November 2005, in order to achieve an open, balanced and development-oriented information society. The implementation of the Summit agenda would be reviewed in 2015.

47. The international community should seize the opportunity provided by the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to give renewed momentum to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

48. Lastly, he welcomed the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group.

49. **Ms. Gallardo Hernández** (El Salvador) welcomed the initiative to hold a High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, as it would be a key element in the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development. Just a few days earlier, El Salvador had hosted the second International Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries. Participants at that conference had adopted the San Salvador Consensus on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries, which stressed the need for greater voice and participation for middle-income countries in international institutions and continued international support for national efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals. Her country hoped that the issue

would be included in the agendas of international forums, meetings and conferences and would be seeking the support of the Rio Group and the Group of 77 and China in that regard.

50. There was a need to examine recent trends in capital flow towards developing countries and new initiatives aimed at strengthening international institutions and improving the flow and stability of financing for development. She welcomed efforts to further reform the Bretton Woods institutions, the objectives of which would be achieved only if their programmes and decisions took better account of the needs of and problems facing countries affected by their operations. Voting and representation rights must reflect the importance of emerging economies and ensure that low-income countries were properly represented.

51. Poverty eradication must be addressed in a comprehensive manner, in line with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Developing countries must be integrated into the global economy. Furthermore, in order for everyone to benefit from globalization, economies needed to be stronger, internal markets larger and countries more productive and competitive. In order for a solution to be found to external debt and market access for developing countries, international financial architecture reform must be accompanied by greater transparency and effective participation by developing countries in decision-making processes. Moreover, a universal, duly regulated, open, non-discriminatory and fair multilateral trading system and true trade liberalization were essential to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round.

52. Remittances could mobilize resources for poverty eradication and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and migrants must be offered safer, cheaper and quicker ways of transferring their money. Organizations had been set up specifically to enable migrants in developed countries to send private donations to development projects in their home communities.

53. South-South cooperation was essential for developing countries and an important addition to national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, triangular cooperation and regional cooperation. It was important to create more space for public-private partnerships. More must also be done to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to technology and knowledge. Lastly, microcredit and microfinance were extremely useful tools, particularly for developing countries with limited resources.

54. **Mr. Hamidon Ali** (Malaysia) said that it was time for the international community to invest in the future by taking the necessary measures to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its consequences. As the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, developed countries had acknowledged that they should play the leading role in global efforts to combat climate change. To that end, they must reduce their emissions to less than the current per capita level of four tonnes per annum. They must also ensure that the relevant technologies were transferred to the developing world. In order for that to happen, however, the intellectual property regime would need to be relaxed and exemptions granted. Collaborative efforts between the North and the South would also need to be stepped up, especially in cases where technologies were based on resources originating from the South.

55. However, adaptation and mitigation efforts alone would not succeed without a global framework for climate change. The negotiations on a post-2012 agreement should begin at the forthcoming Bali Climate Change Conference and should be concluded by 2009. Any other initiatives taken in that direction must complement and not compete with those negotiations.

56. The inability of developing countries to make significant progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals was troubling in the context of the recent reduction in ODA levels and the potential risks to the global economy from the current sub-prime credit crisis. Both developments would have a significant impact on whether the Goals could be achieved in time.

57. The health of the international financial system also had a critical impact on the overall efforts of the developing world to achieve lasting prosperity. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), for example, had recently stated that the downside risks to global growth had increased significantly as a result of the sub-prime credit crisis and that, even if the credit markets recovered, the resulting turbulence might have far-reaching and significant consequences. Some developing countries might be insulated from the direct

effects of that phenomenon but the most vulnerable economies were especially susceptible to its effects owing to their inability to cope with the volatilities of the open international economy. While it was too early to reach definitive policy conclusions on how to prevent similar crises in the future, the following lessons could already be learned: there were inherent dangers in a global economy that was too dependent on the United States as the main engine of growth; markets by themselves were not able to accurately price risk; a lack of regulation inevitably led to a lack of information, especially relating to new financial instruments; and financial innovations had spread risks more evenly around the global financial markets, making more financial institutions vulnerable to those risks.

58. Those serious issues needed to be addressed at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held in October 2007, which must promote the role that higher-income developing countries could play in the development efforts of other developing countries. At the same time, it needed to examine how that role could complement the assistance provided by the developed world. Malaysia welcomed the transformation of South-South cooperation from essentially technical cooperation to a range of activities involving trade, finance and technology. However, South-South cooperation was qualitatively different from North-South cooperation and thus should not be subject to the same rules and regulations.

59. Finally, it was essential to have a solid framework for the negotiations with respect to the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review. Such a framework needed to take into account the various processes involved in the issues to be addressed by the Review.

60. **Mr. Sen** (India), referring to the keynote speech delivered the previous day by the Nobel Prize recipient, agreed that innovation and technology were crucial for economic development in developed and emerging markets. Innovation led to imperfect competition and thus to high returns. However, Mr. Phelps had minimized the importance of the role played by the State in technological advances, particularly the Internet. Science and technology were also crucial for development in Africa. In that regard, he noted that India had begun to equip information technology centres in 26 African countries with fibre-optic cables and satellite systems.

61. Developing countries clearly needed the Millennium Development Goals. However, unless the Goals were followed by sustained economic development they would ultimately become "welfare colonialism". In short, only sustained economic development could enable developing countries to attack the root causes of their problems. It was therefore regrettable that the current international financial system was not geared towards promoting such economic development.

62. The current intellectual property rights regimes clearly hampered economic development because they had been expressly designed to prevent the dissemination of technology and to establish monopolies that favoured only the pharmaceutical companies. Such regimes not only failed to protect biodiversity and access to generic medicines but actually led to biopiracy, resulting in patenting and high profits. The regimes were also harmful to the developed world, since blocking the dissemination of knowledge hampered technological growth and led to increased prices for consumers.

63. Similarly, technologies to address climate change must be affordable to the countries that needed them most. However, intellectual property rights were being used precisely to prevent such technology flows. The Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) regime had already proved unable to deal effectively with such issues as climate change and public health. The United Nations must establish a commission of experts to study the intellectual property rights system with a view to finding solutions that compensated the innovators but were also beneficial to humanity in general.

64. The international community must also address the unfairness inherent in the current international financial system. The net transfer of financial resources from developing to developed countries was much lower in 2007, for example, than in 2005. In other words, developing countries were increasingly subsidizing developed countries. Developing countries would clearly need ODA until such time as they had the scientific and technical infrastructure to attract private capital. It was therefore particularly troubling that only 8 countries had met the 0.7 per cent ODA target to date and that most of those funds had actually been allocated to disaster and debt relief rather than to development assistance. The United Nations therefore

clearly needed to take action to address the shortfalls in ODA.

65. The United Nations also needed to address its outmoded financial architecture, which lacked transparency, accountability and representivity. That was particularly true in the case of IMF. The Economic and Social Council should organize periodic external audits of the Bretton Woods institutions and should play a central role in matters related to debt restructuring. Competent staff capable of performing the requisite duties should be recruited. Debt restructuring was not simply a matter of debt cancellation but also a question of debt sustainability, perhaps best defined as a level of debt that enabled developing countries not only to achieve the Goals but also to meet their debt servicing obligations in the future.

66. Sustained economic development would not be possible without market access, which would require a truly developmental Doha Round. Practical steps would therefore also need to be taken to achieve the desired results.

67. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar), highlighting the achievements of the Millennium Summit, said that the developing nations had responded to the call to restructure and liberalize their economies and improve their public administration. They had fulfilled all their commitments. However, with a few exceptions, the developed nations had not fulfilled their commitment to provide an annual 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as official development assistance. Developing countries did not want new commitments so much as effective implementation of existing ones.

68. In order to address the emerging global challenges, the United Nations needed to work consistently at the global and country levels within a clear cooperative framework focusing on efficiency, transparency and accountability, based on a global partnership for development in which national leadership and ownership of national programmes and strategies were fully recognized. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review provided an opportunity to review results achieved in the reform of United Nations operational activities and to identify clear guidelines on methods for achieving further progress.

69. South-South cooperation had grown in importance, so that South countries were currently in a position to be effective actors in the global economic system thanks to their economic weight. South-South cooperation should not be a substitute for but rather a strengthening factor of multilateralism. There were also many opportunities for South-South investment.

70. The State of Qatar would be hosting the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha in the second half of 2008. His Government hoped that, through its work, the Second Committee would pave the way for the success of that Conference.

71. **Mr. Chávez** (Peru) said that multilateral mechanisms must be strengthened to ensure the participation of both developed and developing countries in the coordination of macroeconomic policy measures. The principal organs of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, must implement reforms that would enable them to adjust to change and deal with the most pressing items on the international agenda.

72. His Government's social policy was aimed at including all sectors in production, ensuring access to education and to technological innovation, and promoting institutional development and population sustainment. Peru had established clear guidelines relating to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In order to succeed in its efforts, his country needed access to foreign markets and investment. Bearing in mind the uncertain progress of the Doha Round and the new opportunities for integration in the Andean subregion and in Latin America as a whole, Peru had signed free trade agreements with its major trading partners. It was a member of the Andean Community and had also signed free trade agreements with Chile and with the United States. Similar arrangements were being negotiated with a number of other countries with a view to ensuring access to the markets of Peru's main trading partners, laying down fair and predictable trading rules and disciplines, diversifying export markets and attracting investment and modern technology.

73. Peru was highly vulnerable to natural disasters and, in particular, to global warming. The El Niño phenomenon had had a devastating impact on his country, and its tropical forests and biodiversity were seriously threatened by changes in weather patterns. Drug trafficking had aggravated the problem of desertification. Peru had undertaken to reduce its emissions and was implementing a national strategy on

climate change. However, the industrialized countries also needed to show greater commitment to supplementing national efforts. More ambitious goals on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions were needed. Peru looked forward to the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Bali.

74. **Mr. Omar** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that no sustained reduction in hunger was possible without special emphasis on agriculture and rural development. The Food and Agriculture Organization advocated a village-by-village approach as a quick and effective way to reduce hunger. It was based on lessons learned from the experience gained through the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS). South-South cooperation had been an important source of technical support for countries implementing SPFS projects since 1996.

75. Climate change was already having a profound and irreversible impact on economic, social and environmental systems, particularly in Africa. Agriculture was undoubtedly the most important sector in the economies of most non-oil-exporting developing countries. The debate on climate change and its impact on agriculture was therefore crucial to the very survival of the continent and its people. Sustainable mountain development was another important issue that would be discussed by the Committee, and FAO stood ready to assist delegations in their deliberations.

76. He wished to draw attention to the launching on 18 October, World Food Day, of the International Year of the Potato, FAO had chosen the Right to Food as its World Food Day theme for 2007. Side events on financing of agriculture, food quality and safety, and aid for trade and food security would be held during the thirty-fourth FAO Conference in Rome in November 2007. A high-level meeting on world food security and the challenges of climate change and bioenergy would be held in June 2008.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.